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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/884,174	06/19/2001	Brian Johnson	303.740US1	2811

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EXAMINER

ELAMIN, ABDELMONIEM I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2116

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/884,174	Applicant(s) JOHNSON, BRIAN	
	Examiner A Elamin	Art Unit 2116	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

PD

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-5, 10-18, 22-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yun et al, US. Pat. No. 6,449,674.

3. Claims 1, 11, 15, 30, 33, 37, 41 and 46, Yun teaches an apparatus for transferring signals between timing domains [*Fig. 3, abstract*], comprising:

a receiver [*input buffer unit 10 of Fig. 3*] for receiving a plurality of signals operative in a first timing domain in accordance with a first clock signal [*external clock*];

a. a decoder coupled to the receiver [*decoder unit 52 of Fig. 3*] for at least partially decoding the signals to generate at least one decoded signal [*col. 4, lines 25-29*]; and

an output timing register [*latch unit 42 of Fig. 3*] coupled to the decoder for outputting the at least one decoded signal in a second timing domain in accordance with a second clock signal [*internal clock of Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 29-32*].

4. Claims 2, 12, 16, 31, 34, 38 and 42, Yun teaches the plurality of signals include command signals and the at least one decoded signal includes at least one decoded command signal [*col. 4, lines 15-33*].

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5. Claims 3, 13, 17, 32, 35, 39 and 43, Yun teaches the plurality of signals include address signals and the at least one decoded signal includes at least one decoded address signal [*col. 1, lines 35-40*].
6. Claims 4, 14, 36, 40 and 49, Yun teaches the first timing domain and the second timing domain have no predetermined phase relationship [*Fig. 3 and related disclosure*].
7. Claims 5, 18, 22, 26-29, 44 and 50-53, Yun teaches the receiver including a multiple-bit enabled register for each of the plurality of signals, each of the multiple-bit enabled registers being clocked using a first clock signal [*buffer units 10 of Fig. 3*].
8. Claims 10, 25 and 45, Yun teaches the output timing register is clocked using a second clock signal having no phase relationship with the first clock signal [*Fig. 3 and related disclosure*].
9. Claims 23 and 47, Yun teaches a DRAM array [*col. 1, lines 27-28*].
10. Claims 24 and 48, Yun teaches the plurality of command signals command a DRAM operation which is selected from the group of DRAM operations consisting of a read operation, a write operation and a refresh operation [*col. 1, lines 40-45*].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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12. Claims 6-9, 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yun et al, US. Pat. No. 6,449,674.

13. Claims 6 and 19, Yun fails to teach a first ring counter for generating a multiple-bit enable signal.

Official Notice is taken that both the concept and the advantages of using ring counter for generating a multiple-bit enable signal is old and well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Yun to include a ring counter for generating a multiple-bit enable signal , because a ring counter is advantageous in that the redundancy of the numbers stored in the locations of the ring counter makes it relatively easy to determine the exact value stored in the counter.

14. Claims 7-9 and 20-21, Yun teaches a multiplexer associated with each of the multiple-bit enabled registers for selecting one of the bits from the respective multiple-bit enabled register for output to the decoder [*inherently, multiplexers are used for selecting one bit from respective multiple bits*].

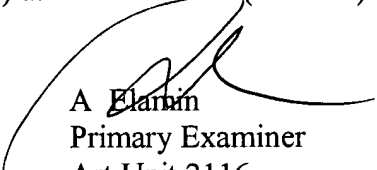
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A Elamin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3674. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on (571) 272-3670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



A. Elamin
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2116

August 19, 2005

A. ELAMIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER